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SUBJ: AMBASSADOR PORTER'S REMARKS ON SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION DRAW ATTENTION OF SCIENCE MINISTER AND
SENATE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

1. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEFORE LEAVING CANADA AND IN SEVERAL
FORA AMBASSADOR PORTER COMMENTED ON THE STATE OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
OFTEN THESE COMMENTS TOOK THE FORM OF ACKNOWLEDGING
GRATEFULLY PAST AND PRESENT CANADIAN COOPERATION IN MANY
AREAS, INCLUDING ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, MEDICINE, AVIATION,
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. PERHAPS FOR THIS REASON HIS PARTING
COMMENTS NOTING THE DIFFICULTIES AND DECLINE IN
BILATERAL COOPERATION ON SIGNIFICANT R&D PROJECTS HAVE
GENERATED SERIOUS INTEREST IN SEVERAL QUARTERS. TO DATE
THESE HAVE INCLUDED THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS, ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LTD., THE CANADIAN
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED
POLICE, AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENERGY, MINES, AND
RESOURCES.

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2. MOST RECENTLY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HEADED BY SENATOR LAMONTAGNE SERVED NOTICE ON THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, DRURY, THAT AT ITS NEXT HEARINGS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY, THE COMMITTEE, ESPECIALLY ITS CHAIRMAN AND SENATOR CARTER, EXPECT TO GO INTO THE STATE OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN DEPTH. THE LINE OF INQUIRY WAS SQUARELY RELATED TO AMBASSADOR PORTER'S PARTING COMMENTS.

3. UNFORTUNATELY THE PRESS WHILE NOT STRICTLY SPEAKING MISQUOTING THE AMBASSADOR HAVE TENDED TO CAST THEIR COVERAGE IN TERMS WHICH IMPLIED THAT THE TWO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES WERE DRIFTING APART AND PERHAPS NO LONGER CARED TO COOPERATE AS MUCH AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. INDIVIDUAL SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICIALS HAVE ANGUISHED OVER THIS IMPLICATION WITH THE EMBASSY SCICONS THROUGHOUT THE RECENT HOLIDAY PERIOD. OFTEN, IN CONFIDENCE, THEY WERE ALMOST EMBARRASSING IN THE LENGTHS TO WHICH THEY WENT TO REASSURE THE SCICONS THAT THE CANADIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY DID NOT SHARE THE "ABSURD NATIONALISM" OF THAT "FAULKNER CROWD."

4. WITH THE PRESS COVERAGE AS A BASE OF DEPARTURE, THE STAFF OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE, MOST, AND EXSTAFF HAVE APPROACHED THE EMBASSY SCICONS FOR AMPLIFICATION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CONCERNS.

5. IN EACH CASE SCICONS HAS INFORMED QUESTIONERS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) AMBASSADOR PORTER HAD NO INTENTION OF SAYING OR IMPLYING THAT THE DECLINE IN SIGNIFICANT COOPERATION WAS DUE TO ANY LACK OF DESIRE FOR SUCH COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES. FURTHERMORE DRAWING ON THE AMBASSADOR'S EARLIER COMMENTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF PRESENT AND PAST COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS SCICONS MADE STRONG POINT THAT BOTH AMBASSADOR AND USG PLACE HIGH VALUE ON THE UNIQUE, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS TO THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF

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BOTH COUNTRIES BETWEEN OUR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

(B) SCICONS THEN PROCEEDED TO NOTE THAT DESPITE THESE CLOSE PERSONAL TIES AND THE VALUE OF PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, THERE HAVE IN FACT BEEN NO NEW MAJOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS INITIATED IN SEVERAL YEARS DESPITE THE EMERGENCY OF A NUMBER OF MUTUAL PROBLEM AREAS THAT REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT R&D IF SOLUTIONS

ARE TO BE FOUND, E.G., ENERGY. IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ACCEPTED AMERICAN INVITATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AIMED AT SOLVING PRESSING PROBLEMS OF WESTERN SOCIETY.

(C) IN CASE OF MOSST AND EXTAFF INQUIRIES WERE MADE BY INDIVIDUALS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SCICOUNS AND QUESTIONERS DISCUSSED FRANKLY SPECIFIC CASES WHERE SENIOR SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT IN CANADA IS KNOWN TO DESIRE AN INCREASE IN CANADA'S COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS WITH U.S. BUT ARE PRECLUDED FROM DOING SO BY THE DECREASING AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES IN TERMS OF BOTH PERSONNEL AND MONEY. SCICOUNS ALWAYS CONCLUDED THESE SESSIONS (ONE WAS FIVE HOURS LONG) BY EMPHASIZING THAT WHILE NO AMERICAN WOULD PRESUME TO SAY WHAT CANADA SHOULD DO, THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF THE USG, AMBASSADOR PORTER, THE US SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND THE SCICOUNS PERSONALLY WAS TO ASSURE THAT THE GOC AND THE CANADIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WERE FULLY AWARE THAT THE DESIRE FOR COOPERATION AND RESPECT FOR THE QUALITY OF CANADIAN WORK REMAINED HIGH AMONG AMERICANS AND THAT WHERE THERE WAS MUTUAL INTEREST THERE WERE FEW, IF ANY, BARRIERS TO COOPERATION ON OUR SIDE. THE DECISION ON HOW MUCH AND WHAT CANADIAN RESOURCES SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO COOPERATIVE R&D WITH THE U.S. WAS NECESSARILY AND PROPERLY A PURELY CANADIAN DECISION.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY SCICOUNS HAS GAINED STRONG IMPRESSION THAT INDIVIDUAL SENIOR SCIENCE MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, MOST OF WHOM KNEW AMBASSADOR PORTER, ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIS HAVING SURFACED AN ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THEM FOR SOME TIME. MOST OF THESE INDIVIDUALS FEEL ALMOST DESPERATELY PRESSED BY RECENT GOC SQUEEZE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SPENDING. DRURY AND MOSST WILL PROBABLY PLAY THEIR RESPONSES TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE IN SUCH A WAY TO ROCK THE BOAST THE LEAST. IN SHORT, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INCLINED TO MAKE MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR R&D REGARDLESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING CANADA AND HENCE MOSST WILL PUT THE BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON ANY DECAY IN CANADA'S R&D CAPABILITY BROUGHT ON BY THEIR POLICIES. EXTAFF AND STRONG PROGRAM MINISTRIES LIKE EM&R MAY TAKE A LONGER RANGE MORE OBJECTIVE VIEW AND ATTEMPT TO USE THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS AS A FORUM FOR HALTING, IF NOT REVERSING, THE EROSION OF CANADA'S CAPABILITIES BY SHORTSIGHTED (IN THEIR VIEW) ARBITRARY TREASURY BOARD ECONOMIES. AN OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, NOT POSSIBLE BUT AS IN ANY BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM, THINGS CAN BE PUT ON THE RECORD

THAT SUPPORT THE POSITION OF PROGRAM AGENCIES. IT IS
UNFORTUNATE IN THIS RESPECT THAT THE EXTAFF/SCI OFFICE
IS NOT STAFFED WITH STRONGER, MORE SENIOR, PEOPLE
BECAUSE EXTAFF/SCI VIEWS ARE ON THE WHOLE BALANCED AND
REPRESENT WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED ENLIGHTENED CANADIAN
SELF-INTEREST. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW SERIOUSLY THE
COMMITTEE DECIDES TO PRESS ITS INQUIRY AND HOW MUCH
PUBLICITY ITS HEARINGS AND REPORT RECEIVE. JOHNSON

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